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May 1997

State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee
Career Information System

Career Conferences A Success

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"There is nothing permanent except change."

-Heraclitus

Meeting the Career Challenges in the 21st Century

Montana SOICC (State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee) sponsored two career conferences in March — *Meeting the Career Challenges in the 21st Century*. These conferences were held in Billings and Missoula. There was a total of 99 participants registered for the conferences. Participants represented vocational rehabilitation, high schools, post-secondary institutions, FAIM coordinators, Job Service and employment counselors from all over the state.

One of the favorite sessions among participants was the session on Using Technology to Find Employment presented by Kathy Steil. She covered the Internet, America's Job Bank and other job search and career information sites on the Internet. The video and session on Specific Needs of the Disabled was also a conference favorite. We were able to use state-of-the-art technology which allowed us to use Power Point presentation software, live Internet hookup, and video projection.

Some comments from participants included: "This was a "needed" conference for the information. It was well presented and I would like to see more if possible!"; "The workshop was great! I learned a lot. The presenters were well prepared. I also enjoyed all the freebies!! The networking was wonderful. Good job!!!!"; "Best in years!". We appreciated the feedback that was given us, it will help make the next conference that much better. We are taking several of the ideas given us and are going to incorporate them in our training in the fall.

Thanks again to all who attended the conferences and a big thanks to all of our presenters.

Conference Materials Available

There were many materials that were requested by conference participants that are available to anyone who is interested. We still have Career-O-Rom-A demos available on CD at no charge. Bobilator presentations are available for \$15 on overhead transparencies and on 3 ½ inch disks (Power Point presentation). CIS for Windows demos are also available. Call 1-800-633-0229 and ask for MCIS.

MONTANA

State Occupational Information
Coordinating Committee
Career Information System

P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624

New User Services Coordinator

The Montana Career Information Systems is pleased to announce the addition of Kelly Chapman, as the new User Services Coordinator. Kelly has a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree in Administrative Science and Communications Technology. She has worked for the past year and a half with the Supreme Court Administrator. Prior to that she worked a year and a half in the Research and Analysis Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry as a statistical technician. "I am excited about the opportunity to work with the MCIS staff and users," says Kelly. We are sure you will enjoy meeting Kelly this year in workshops and conferences.

Fall 1997 Software Release

Now is the time to start thinking about your software needs for the fall. This will probably be the last year we will be sending out a DOS version of CIS. If you are currently using Micro-CIS and will be updating your computer system to Windows, please contact us and let us know as soon as possible. If you are currently using CIS for Windows, we will be automatically mailing you the updated loadset in the fall.

There are many new enhancements for CIS for Windows this year. We are adding the occupation Casino Gaming Workers to the occupation files. There will be a Search button that allows for keyword searches as well as a glossary of terms. The What Next? screen will also take on a new look. This will allow for easier access to Micro-SKILLS, job search, military occupations, assessment link, and apprenticeship. Each site will be able to print a summary report of the files accessed during the day. This report will be very useful to find out what topics are being accessed most frequently and which ones are not being used as much. Many of these enhancements come as a direct result of user feedback.

We will also be including worksheet masters for Occupation Sort for CIS for Windows. The

worksheet used in Micro-CIS Quest is not identical to the questions in Occupation Sort. We had a request for a worksheet master for reproducing and have decided to include it in everyone's shipment in the fall. As CIS for Windows gets increasingly popular at sites around the state, it is important to be able to do some preliminary work before getting in front of the computer. This will also allow an instructor/trainer to have a large group work on Occupation Sort in a classroom setting. We will be updating the School Sort and Aid Sort masters for fall release of CIS for Windows as well.

School Libraries Want CIS

MCIS staff attended the Montana Library Association Conference in Great Falls on April 24-25. We met with many high school librarians who were surprised to find out that CIS for Windows is at their high school. Just a reminder that the license for CIS for Windows and Micro-CIS allows the software to be loaded on ALL computers in the building. Let your school librarian load the software on the library computers. They do get requests for career information by students.



School-to-Work Intern Joins SOICC

Susanna Haines joins SOICC/MCIS as a School-to-Work intern. She is currently a junior with Capital High School in Helena and plans to major in art after graduation. Susanna will be working on designing our career tabloid which will be sent to all high schools in the fall.

We are thrilled to be involved with School-to-Work in Helena. The practical application of school-based learning combined with work-based learning will be a good way for Susanna to build her portfolio and gather valuable experience as she works towards a career in art. We believe that high school students throughout Montana will benefit from having a career tabloid designed by a high school student.

Consortia and School District Fee Changes

As always, MCIS continues to find ways to get current career and labor market information into the hands of as many people as possible. We have not increased the fees from last year and for those school districts that have multiple sites we've developed a special rate — \$2,000/district. For many schools this will bring a substantial savings. This new policy allows a school district to lease the software for one rate and then use the program in all of the schools in the district — elementary, middle school and high school. This rate is for those school districts that would normally pay more than \$2,000 to put the software in all of the schools. For districts with only one high school or with enrollments below 200, the per site rate will be the most affordable rate. As School-to-Work progresses in the state it is more important than ever for students to have access to CIS for Windows. We are sure that many school districts will take advantage of this special rate.

MCIS also encourages groups to call about discounts for consortia. A group must meet the following criteria for consortia discounts: 1) It must be a pre-existing group, 2) must have a minimum of five sites, and 3) have a single billing source. For details on the discount amounts call Annette Miller at 800-633-0229.

For sites that need to be billed for next year's software before the end of the year or want to change from Micro-CIS to CIS for Windows, call Annette Miller or e-mail her at amiller@jsd.dli.mt.gov. MCIS will continue to support Micro-CIS for another year, so we encourage sites to upgrade to CIS for Windows as soon as possible. Only about 24 sites are still using the DOS version, the other 120 have converted to CIS for Windows. The advantage of CIS for Windows is most people can sit down with CIS for Windows and use the program without any major training or help.

Annual License Fees

Secondary Schools	
200 & over	\$1,150
100-199 (-15%)	\$977
50-99 (-30%)	\$805
1-49 (-50%)	\$575
Postsecondary Schools	\$1,150
Agencies	\$1,150

E-Mail Addresses

A fast and easy way to ask questions, or correspond with the staff of SOICC/MCIS is by the use of e-mail. Feel free to ask us questions about technical support, billing, or new orders or tell us what you think about our products and service at the following addresses:

Annette Miller:	amiller@jsd.dli.mt.gov
Rita Watson:	rwatson@jsd.dli.mt.gov
Lucie Willson:	lwilson@jsd.dli.mt.gov
Kelly Chapman:	kchapman@jsd.dli.mt.gov

Take CIS for a "Test Drive"

With the CIS for Windows product introduced last year MCIS also started a policy of sending demos to those people who are interested in using the software and want to test drive it first. Please call us at 800-633-0229 to arrange for a demo. You'll have 30-45 days free use of the software. Individualized training is available.

Tech Notes

With this fall's release of CIS for Windows, having multiple versions of .DLL files will no longer be an issue. The program will be changed so **all** the files will be placed in the CISWIN directory and not interfere with existing Windows files.

Workstation disks will not be needed for network installations. The program is being rewritten so that the need to install files on each workstation is eliminated. These two programming changes should make installing CIS for Windows much easier.



THE REAL GAME



The following article is submitted by Jody Ceartin, 5th Grade Teacher, Main Street School, East Helena, Montana, who has piloted The Real Game in her classroom this year.

Welcome to 5th grade, and our review of the Real Game. We incorporated the game into our curriculum in Math and will be running it until the end of the quarter. It is a part of our Check Book Math program which also emphasizes the importance of life-time skills to which Math applies.


The Real Game was easily built into this unit on application math. The kids love living and learning about jobs, occupations, and careers, and the importance of knowing multiple skills that are saleable to various employers.

We write checks daily, after we buy homes, groceries, cars, etc. These of course are determined by the income allowed in the Real Game.

Piloting this program into the intermediate grades has been a rewarding experience for both me and my students. They have become much more aware of life as it REALLY is and how important education is in determining their future roles in life.

Thank you for the experience. We hope to continue this next year, and extend it to other classrooms!

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